

AMENDMENTS OF THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, amend the first and second paragraphs to read as follows:

The present invention relates to an apparatus and method for checking bank notes ~~for their state of use~~ note fitness, in particular for dirt and stains which can impair the service life of the bank notes.

For checking bank notes for dirt and stains, ~~determining bank note fitness~~ one usually illuminates the bank notes by means of at least one light source and evaluates the diffusely reflected light by means of suitable optical sensors.